

Judicial Facilities Reflect the Role of the Courts

The buildings which house legal activity must reflect what the law is all about. Signs, symbols, structures and locations must all contribute to creating an atmosphere worthy of the law and the people whom the law serves.

This axiom was underscored by Thomas C. Clark, Retired Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

"Each courthouse," said Clark, "must be a symbol of the American dream of the true justice . . . Only thus will citizens be assured that justice is a functioning reality of the American way of life."

Like other institutions, courthouses are a cultural reflection of how people view the activities which take place within the building walls. Consider the great churches, cathedrals, and institutions of higher learning. All in some way try to convey that these buildings are special, set apart, because of the purposes for which they have been erected.

Since colonial times, several courthouses that fit this grand mold have been built in Rhode Island. The Old Colony House in Newport, built in 1739, is a prime example. Providence's Old State House, built in 1760; the Old Kent County Courthouse built in East Greenwich in 1773; the Bristol County Courthouse which dates from 1817 — all have housed various courts in classic style. More ornate and grander designs followed in the late 1800s with the multi-spired Old Providence County Courthouse in 1877; the castle-like Washington County Courthouse in 1892; and the Woonsocket Courthouse in 1896. The Providence County Courthouse built around 1930 replacing the one built in 1877 also epitomizes this tradition. Its exterior matches the classic lines of the Georgian colonial structures of Benefit Street, and its marble and wood interior shows elegant detail.

In spite of this grand tradition of courthouse construction, when the Court Reorganization Act of 1969 created a State Court Administrative Office and centralized responsibility for court facilities, it was found that many of the fifteen court

locations were either inappropriate for court use or in poor condition. Furthermore, some courts were seriously short of office and courtroom space. The reasons for this crisis were clear. In the forty years since the Providence County Courthouse was built, the state Judiciary had expanded by over 150% from fourteen full-time and twelve part-time judges to thirty-six full-time judges. The size of the state bar had also grown by 150% from about eight hundred attorneys to nearly two thousand, and caseload in all courts had increased even faster, growing over 175% from 34,735 filings in 1930 to 95,804 in 1969. As no new courthouses were built during this period, space shortages were inevitable, and the courts found themselves located in abandoned school buildings and leased vacant spaces; settings that fell far short of the "symbols of the American dream."

The Chief Justice and the Court Administrator made courthouse improvement an immediate priority, and commissioned a study of the judiciary's facility needs. Completed in 1973 by a nationally known consultant in courthouse design, this study concluded that only three of the existing court facilities were adequate, and the consultant recommended immediate construction of a new 200,000 square foot central judicial complex.

During the next four years however, the courts' construction plans were frustrated, as voters rejected two bond issues that

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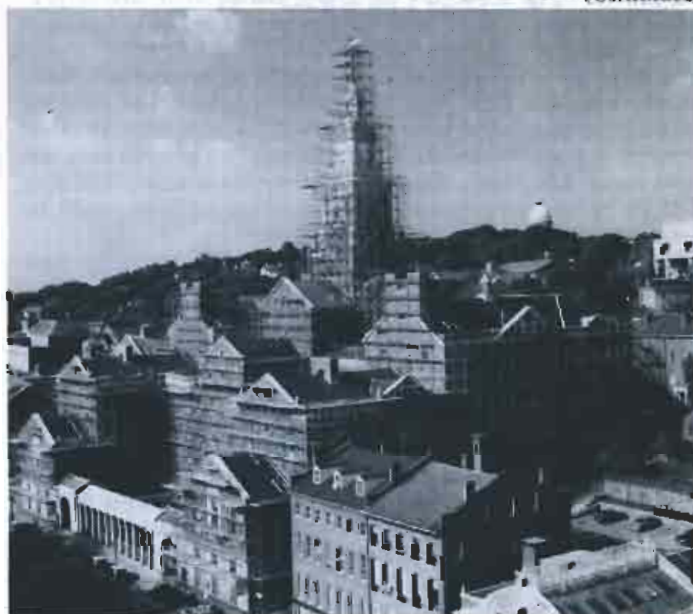


Photo by Frank L. Guiliani
Providence County Court House facilities undergoing extensive exterior repairs — the first in over fifty years.

Judicial Facilities Reflect the Role of the Courts ***(Continued)***

would have provided construction funds. In addition, capital budget appropriation requests were repeatedly denied. This improbable impasse was finally resolved when the Chief Justice, the Governor and the Legislature, working together, uncovered the existence of a vehicle created by legislation nearly a quarter of century earlier but never used: the Public Building Authority. This authority has the power to issue revenue bonds to construct, improve, equip, acquire or operate any public facility. In this arrangement, the Judicial Branch pays rent to the Authority to retire the bonds.

In 1979 ground was broken for a new judicial complex in Providence. This 200,000 square foot courthouse provides a new home for the Family and District Courts, the Workers' Compensation Commission, and the courts' computer services. Space has also been provided for other justice system agencies including the Attorney General, the Public Defender, Probation and Parole, the Department of Children and their Families, and the Providence Police.

This modern facility recalls the tradition of the grand old courthouses, but melds style and function. It was designed after careful analysis of the courts activities, and plans provide for future court expansion.

With the help of a consultant who has designed courthouses throughout the country, the complex was laid-out to allow convenient public access while preserving the security and privacy of judges. In some areas, there are four separate travel patterns that only meet in the courtrooms. The building not only provides more courtrooms, but also has jury facilities not available in the Old Family and District Court locations. It also includes sophisticated security, fire protection, and communication systems. Its exterior is simple but imposing, and its public interior areas are handsome and large enough to accommodate the many who come to court.

The Public Building Authority has continued to respond to the pressing facility needs of the Judiciary in other locations. They have flexibly used their power to acquire and renovate existing buildings in improving the Kent County Courthouse.

The Courts had leased parts of what was called the Boeng Building, with an option to purchase. The Authority purchased the building in 1979 for \$2.5 million rather than continue to spend \$408,000 per year in rent. The purchase of the building has proven to be an economic and practical approach to providing the court system with adequate and suitable facilities in Warwick.

An analysis of the spatial requirements of the courts in Kent County over the next few years indicates that the existing building with planned renovations will be adequate. Further renovation may be necessary to accommodate growth over the short term. Long-term growth may require a major building addition to the courthouse. If so, such an addition could be accommodated on the existing site.

Further south, plans are well under way to construct a new Washington County Courthouse in South Kingstown with Authority financing.

The old courthouse, a turreted granite structure that was built in the 1870s, has not been renovated in recent memory. It is very inadequate, both structurally and functionally, for the activities occurring within, and is in a state of general disrepair.

It became clear that the extent of deterioration to the building and its small size ruled out renovation, and that a new structure was needed. The proposed new building, to be located on the former Mount St. Joseph College property in South Kingstown already owned by the Public Building Authority, will have three to four courtrooms with all the additional support facilities such as judges' chambers, conference rooms, and space for social agencies that service the courts. It is expected to be three or four times the size of the present Washington

County Courthouse in West Kingston. This new structure will represent a major development in improved court facilities in Rhode Island. This project is expected to begin within the next six months.

The Judiciary's efforts to keep its courthouses up to traditional standards have now come full circle. Attention has now been directed to fifty-year-old Providence County Courthouse. As the home of the Supreme and Superior Courts, this facility has served as the anchor and symbol of the Rhode Island court system.

On the day this facility was dedicated a prayer was offered that "... this building stand ever as a monument to our people's love of justice and to their virtues ..." However, with the passage of time, even this impressive courthouse began to show signs of deterioration. A distinctive building such as the Providence County Courthouse, with its fine finishes, materials and architectural embellishments, requires a certain attention to detail in its maintenance. The character of the building becomes muted and dulled when details are forgotten. Immediate attention was needed to properly restore the building.

To repair the ravages of time and weather, the Public Building Authority has provided \$5 million for renovations. These repairs began in April, 1985, and include replacing the windows and slate roof, repairing brick work, and repairing the drainage system. Also included on the repair list are the bronze doors and ornamental lighting fixtures; restoration of the wrought-iron gates on South Main Street damaged by the 1954 hurricane; resetting the blue stone paving in the South Main Street courtyard; restoration of the gold leaf on the tower roof and weathervane; repairs to the damaged limestone balusters and ornamental trim, and general work to restore the exterior of the building to its initial condition. This phase of the restoration work is expected to be completed in twelve to eighteen months.

The second phase, also costing \$5 million, will begin in the spring of 1986. It will involve repairs to the building's heating, ventilating and air conditioning systems. The first two phases are expected to be completed within thirty months. Plans call for a third phase of interior renovations to provide additional courtrooms and to improve jury and records-keeping areas. A fourth phase is projected to restore interior architectural details.

With a keen awareness of the tradition of earlier ages when courthouses held a place of prominence in society as evidenced by existing structures worthy of the practice of law, the Judicial Branch has undertaken major renovation and construction programs to improve our court facilities. Efficient use of funds; planning for both the present and the future; attention to courthouse designs; choosing suitable locations; and preserving the historical integrity of these structures, continues to occupy the Judicial Branch of government.

Publications Clearinghouse ***Established at State Library***

Among the many new laws enacted by the 1985 legislative session is an act establishing a State Publications Clearinghouse at the State Library in the State House.

According to Chapter 196 of the 1985 Public Laws, the purpose of the Clearinghouse is to coordinate and ensure public access to state documents through the library systems in Rhode Island. The new law requires state agencies to forward twenty-five (25) copies of each of their publications to the State Library for distribution.

Mary Anne Golda has been appointed Clearinghouse Director. The telephone number is 277-2473.

Living With MA BELL

By

Richard A. Bouchard

**Senior Telecommunications and Warning Coordinator,
Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency**

Since the break-up of AT&T, much has happened in the wonderful world of telephones, often to the consternation of telephone owners and users everywhere. In the process of divestiture, telephone service has become not only more complex, but also more expensive.

For state employees, many of whom spend a considerable portion of their work day using the telephone, a thorough understanding of the "new system" can make life with Ma Bell a lot easier. More significantly, it can cut state government's awesome monthly telephone bill to a more manageable level.

The purpose of this article is to help state employees identify some of the new changes in telephone service, and avoid many of the "extra charge" pitfalls with which the new system is riddled.

Readers may already know that New England Telephone Company (N.E.T.) continues to provide dial tone and circuits within the State of Rhode Island. But when calls leave the state, a variety of companies are available to provide interstate service. State government has selected AT&T Communications (AT&T-C), the largest of the inter-state (long distance) interconnect companies, to provide it with long distance services. Another company, AT&T Information Services, (ATTIS), has taken over the equipment formerly owned by New England Telephone. The billing for AT&T-C and N.E.T. services are combined into one bill, while ATTIS equipment lease bills are sent separately, and are charged in three-month increments, payable in advance. If this is not complicated enough for you, here are a few more variables. Some state agencies now own or are lease/purchasing telephone equipment from ATTIS, while a few lease from other vendors, thus turning the billing process into a nightmare.

Regardless of where or from whom telephone service is purchased, one thing is certain: the cost of telephone service and associated equipment is on the increase. Knowing who charges for what and how much, becomes of paramount importance if unnecessary charges are to be avoided.

Here are some of the "nickel and dime" charges that can balloon-up a telephone bill to grotesque proportions.

When you dial N.E.T. directory assistance, a charge of 25¢ is made for each request above the minimum. Directory requests made through an operator are also charged at that rate. Even more costly is out-of-state directory assistance provided by AT&T-C. Here, the charge is 50¢ for each request above the minimum of two per month, provided long distance calls are actually made. If no long distance calls are made during the month, no credits are issued.

Be aware that telephone company computers keep track of everything! To save money, telephone users should obtain phone numbers from wherever they can — business cards, stationery letterheads, telephone directories and other sources. Make certain that persons taking telephone messages for you get the correct number of the caller; and share frequently called numbers and new numbers with staff members. In our office, telephone lists are maintained on a personal computer, and print-outs are circulated to staff members on a regular basis.

Another recent increase in tariff is the 12¢ MESSAGE UNIT charge (formerly .106¢ per message unit). Message units are charged to all calls off Centrex (when you dial "9"). The big plus with the Centrex system is that when you dial within the State Centrex System (four digits), the state avoids paying message unit charges. NEVER DIAL 9-277-XXXX!! If you do,

you defeat one of the cost savings Centrex provides. Learn the capabilities of the system, and dial appropriate access codes if they are available to you in order to minimize charges. New England Telephone defines the new Message Unit rate of 12¢ as: "the rate charged for phone calls lasting from the moment it is answered up to five minutes. A call lasting six minutes or longer is charged as if it lasted a full ten minutes."

Remember. The N.E.T. computer will bill by *Message Units*, not in precise minutes. Conversely, ultra brief off-Centrex calls still cost the state one message unit. It is advisable therefore, that once you get through to your call destination, leave a complete message including your number. You may save a return call. You may as well use as much of the five-minute message unit as you need, since it will be charged as a message unit no matter how brief your call may be.

Since divestiture, those persons in the various state agencies charged with the responsibility of notifying vendors or the General Service and Property Management agency of telephone problems, have new responsibilities. Consequently, it is advisable to have someone within the agency with technical ability, look over the fundamental problem before anyone from outside the agency is called. For example, those agencies who now own their equipment should realize that broken cords and the like, may now be the responsibility of the owner. Such repairs will no longer be made by the phone company, without incurring service call charges in addition to the cost of replacement parts.

In most cases, state agencies are leasing equipment, not from New England Telephone, but from ATTIS. It is very important that ATTIS be called *only* if the leased telephone is at fault. For if ATTIS determines that the N.E.T. circuits and not the equipment is at fault, the state will be billed \$60. for an unnecessary service call! With some telephone troubles, it is difficult to determine exactly who is responsible when services break down. Even after the problem has been corrected, it is often difficult for the repairmen to determine who was at fault. All work requests and service provided should be monitored closely. This is especially true for complex data and other types of telecommunication circuits, since unnecessary charges may be incurred if the repair effort is not closely monitored.

Every department of state government should designate a primary and backup person responsible to help identify telephone problems. The Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA), CTX 2368, can help with the training of volunteers.

For those responsible for monitoring the work of telephone repair personnel and reporting telephone troubles, the following tips may be of help.

- Be certain the trouble is called in to the *right company!* Here in the RIEMA, we prepare a written trouble order for each problem call. We record the nature of the problem, the time it was called in, and the initials or the name of the person taking the complaint. We also ask for a trouble call number.

- Make a note of the time the technician arrives; record the length of time the agency was without telephone service (for possible credits); get the name or initials of the service person, and a brief description of what was done to remedy the problem.

- Retain all information for future use including: circuit numbers, Computer Access Codes (CAC), Cable and Pair assignment numbers (the cable between the Central Office (CO) and the building); and record house pair assignments (the

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Living With MA Bell (Continued)

wires between where the cable enters the building and your office). This information can be of future value. Our experience has demonstrated that the more you know about the telephone system, the more cost effective will be your service charges.

For those state employees who simply use the telephone extensively in their work, the following tips can cut telephone costs.

- Keep track of and share telephone numbers with staff.
- Keep calls short, especially those made off-Centrex. Remember that message units cost 12¢ each in increments of 5 minutes and those charges are shared by all agencies.
- Give the answering operator YOUR number when you fail to reach the party called, and instruct your operators to record the numbers of those calling you.
- Inform the "telephone person" in your department of any irregularities experienced in using the telephones. Do not take it upon yourself to call for service. As this article suggests, a certain amount of knowledge about telephone systems and service is needed to obtain repair service at a cost effective rate.
- Learn and use Centrex Long Distance and Intra-Centrex Codes in order to avoid extra charges. Capitol Centrex users for example, can reach any other Capitol Centrex telephone by dialing four digits. Certain telephones in the system may also be able to reach other areas of the state by using Capitol Centrex Access Codes such as the following:

181 — Narragansett — North and South Kingstown	187 — Little Compton 191 — Mt. Pleasant Complex
182 — Westerly area	193 — University of R.I.
183 — Newport area	194 — R.I. College
184 — Woonsocket & Burrillville	195 — Prov. Welfare Office
185 — Metro Boston	196 — Howard Complex
	9-XXX-XXXX (Off Centrex)

A little more diligence on the part of all state employees in the use of the telephone can make a significant contribution to reducing state government telephone bills and make life with Ma Bell a lot less uncertain.

pRide

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FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR.....

Executive Orders

Number	Date	Subject
85-1	1-15-85	Implements personnel procedures aimed at reducing size of state government.
85-2	1-17-85	Establishes Capital Center Project Construction Management Team in the Governor's Office. (In amendment of Executive Order 84-7).
85-3	2-21-85	Establishes a Governor's Small Business Advisory Council.
85-4	2-20-85	Reaffirms and reiterates the Minority Business Enterprise Program initiated by Executive Order 83-13 of December 30, 1983.
85-5	3-5-85	Establishes Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action Policy and Code of Fair Practices.
85-6	3-8-85	Establishes policy for reimbursement of travel expenses incurred by state officials and/or state employees while engaged in official business.
85-7	3-13-85	Appoints certain military personnel as Aides-de-Camp to the Commander-in-Chief.
85-8	3-15-85	Establishes a seven member technical advisory board within the Department of Health in connection with the asbestos abatement program.
85-9	3-18-85	Amends Executive Order 85-5 on Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action Policy by correcting certain organizational references contained in the original Executive Order.
85-10	5-17-85	Establishes a thirteen-member Rhode Island State Council on Vocational Education.
85-11	5-30-85	Makes certain amendments to Executive Order 85-9 on Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action Policy.
85-12	5-30-85	Amends Executive Order No. 85-3 on the Governor's Small Business Advisory Council by increasing the composition of the council from fifteen to twenty members.
85-13	6-7-85	Establishes policy to eliminate sexual harassment in state government.
85-14	7-3-85	Designates the Rhode Island Occupational Information Coordinating Committee to be responsible for oversight and management of the Rhode Island statewide comprehensive labor market and occupational supply and demand information system.
85-15	7-9-85	Establishes a twenty-member Governor's Human Services Advisory Council.
85-16	7-23-85	Designates the Director of Administration as the state's 504 Coordinator for compliance with mandates of Sec. 504 of Title V of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.
85-17	7-17-85	Reassigns functions of the Department of Community Affairs to several departments of state government.
85-18	7-23-85	Establishes a Governor's Office of Energy Assistance within the Executive Department.

For more information or copies of Executive Orders, contact Shawn Magee, Office of the Governor's Legal Counsel, Room 320, State House — 277-2080.

BAC In Business

BAC or RIBAC — the Rhode Island Business Action Center established in the Department of Economic Development by Governor Edward D. DiPrete, is in business and flourishing.

RIBAC serves as a single contact point for answers to questions and problems concerning state government, or for answers on any issue affecting the operation of a new or existing business in the state.

RIBAC promises a substantive response to all inquiries within 48 hours. The telephone number is 277-2832.

How RIBAC Works

The Business Action Center is staffed by interviewers who attempt to respond to calls on-the-spot, utilizing RIDED reference material and research information, literature, forms and applications made available to RIBAC by state agencies. In the event the interviewer cannot render an immediate answer, or cannot otherwise resolve a particular problem, a state agency or city or town expediter is called by the RIBAC interviewer.

Role of the Expediter

RIBAC expeditors have been selected to serve as the contact point for RIBAC staff personnel when questions or problems arise that concern a particular state agency or city or town. The expeditor deals directly with the RIBAC interviewer and not with the client. With a single contact person in each state agency, city or town, the RIBAC interviewer is thus able to cut through time delays and the need for numerous phone calls.

In a brochure directed at the Rhode Island business community, Governor DiPrete expressed his reasons for creating the Business Action Center:

"As a former businessman, I know that dealing with state government can often be a frustrating and time consuming experience.

"As Governor, I am determined to eliminate the red tape that has existed in the past and provide quick, and thorough answers to questions and problems faced by the business owners in Rhode Island. That is why I have created the Business Action Center."

Disclosure of Names of State Government Consultants Now Required

Chapter 160 of the Public Laws of 1985 adds Chapter 89 to Title 42 of the general laws requiring all departments, commissions, boards, councils and other agencies of state government to prepare and submit to the secretary of state, on a quarterly basis, a list disclosing the names of all consultants employed by them on a contractual basis, and the amount of compensation received by each consultant.

The Office of the Secretary of State will make available initial supplies of required forms to all reporting agencies.

For more information, contact David Zelinski, Esquire, at 277-2238.

Use of State Seal in Advertisement Illegal

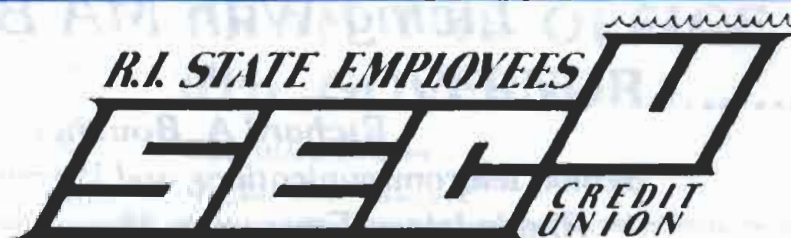
A recent incident in which a commercial firm used a facsimile of the Rhode Island State Seal in their advertising has prompted the issuance of a warning by Leonard F. Clingham, Jr., Chief of Legal Services for the Department of Administration.

The use of the State Seal, the state coat of arms or a facsimile or imitation thereof, for commercial purposes is a violation of Sec. 11-15-4 of the R.I. General Laws. Use of the seal in an advertisement creates a presumption that such use is for commercial purposes.

The statute makes it a misdemeanor punishable with a \$500. fine, and the Attorney General is authorized by law to seek injunctive relief against violations of the statute.



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Sunday's Journal
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URI Memorial Union
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6 North Main Street
Pascoag, R.I. 02859
(401) 568-6271

Cranston Medical Center
Cranston, R.I. 02920
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- SECU membership open to all who live or work in R.I.
- ATM now available at R.I. College for all Monec users
- Each depositor insured to \$100,000 by RISDIC